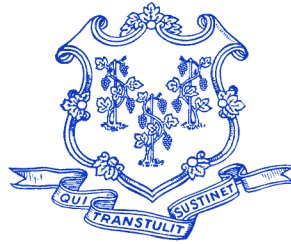


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Senate Majority Leader Bob Duff
Testimony in Support of:
SB 133 AA *Allowing Police Officers to Wear Religious Head Coverings as Part of a Police Uniform*
Public Safety and Security Committee
February 22, 2022

Senator Osten, Representative Horn, Senator Champagne, Representative Howard and distinguished members of the Public Safety and Security Committee, I would like to thank you today for allowing me to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 133, *An Act Allowing Police Officers to Wear Religious Head Coverings as Part of a Police Uniform*.

Connecticut has taken many steps to end discrimination in our state and I believe that **Senate Bill 133** is the next step for us to take to achieve a more diverse and accepting state. Our police forces need to be reflective of our population and this bill seeks to achieve that. The Sikh religion requires adherents to keep their head covered. This bill allows Sikhs to wear their turban as part of their uniform.

Many police departments in the United States and the United States Military, already have policies in place to allow Sikhs to wear a turban as part of their uniform. In 2020 the United States Military Academy at West Point saw its first Sikh graduate. Connecticut is home to a thriving Sikh community and they believe in service to their fellow citizens. They should be allowed to serve their state, their cities and their towns and not have to break their religious practices to do so.

I thank the committee for your time and ask that you give this bill a favorable report. I look forward to working with you as it moves forward.